

Only Two Weeks More of the Annual Xmas Special Sale

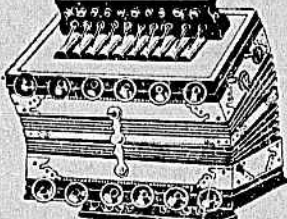
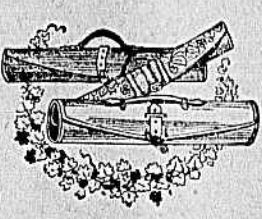
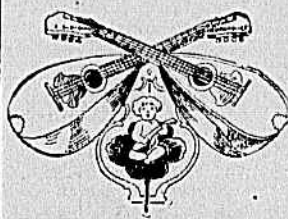
THE CABLE COMPANY—Our Name is Our Guarantee.

The arrival of four carloads of Pianos last Thursday enables us to offer even greater inducements for the next two weeks of this great SPECIAL SALE than we did last week. You know when you buy from The Cable Company that you will receive a dollar in value every time you spend the amount.

We have not the space to tell you about the merits of our goods, but you should remember that we carry what experience has proven to be the most satisfactory line of Pianos and Organs in every respect manufactured in the world. This is the secret of our success. Here's what you get this Christmas: Splendid Upright Pianos, of the latest designs and makes, perfect in tonal qualities, noted for durable qualities, superior in material and workmanship and at prices lower, by forty per cent. for the same value furnished, than any other house in Virginia, the South or anywhere else, other than The Cable Company's branches can offer. If this does not convince you then look at the stocks our competitors and then examine ours. We have the goods and can demonstrate what we say to be true.

PIANOS

MASON & HAMLIN,
CONOVER,
CABLE,
KINGSBURY,
WELLINGTON,
DEKOVEN.



MASON & HAMLIN,
CHICAGO COTTAGE

ORGANS

Talking Machine Department.



The Phonograph and Graphophone will furnish you with necessary music for dances. It will furnish satisfactory amusement for any festive gathering you may have. It educates you to appreciate music. Last—It is moderate in price.

Columbia Phonographs and Graphophones, Cylinder and Disc Records, \$3.50 to \$65. Charged if you wish it.

Gold-Moulded Phonograph Records, 25c Each. 10,000 new ones. Why pay more?

OPEN A CHARGE ACCOUNT. YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD HERE.

HOLIDAY BARGAINS:

Christmas Special.

Seventy full size UP-
RIGHT Pianos, new and
guaranteed.

\$249.00.

Terms, \$2 Per Week.
You Can't Resist This.

For \$150.00

CASH.

a limited number of elegant
UPRIGHT Pianos as a
special holiday inducement.
Standard makes, fully guaranteed
by this company.

Remember, there's only
a limited number.

\$239.00

Christmas Special.

We offer nineteen UP-
RIGHT Pianos, elegant
instruments of national
reputation.

Terms, \$1.50 Per Week.

For \$289.00

For this price you can
have your selection from
one lot of sixteen large
size Standard UPRIGHT
Pianos—best make.

Terms, \$2.00 Per Week.

\$600 Value

For \$425.00

We have in stock at this
time twelve elegant CON-
OVER Pianos, rented a
short while, but practi-
cally new. These fine
Pianos are included in
this sale.

Don't Overlook Them.

24 Used Upright Pianos

received in exchange, to be sold for what they
will bring.

Regular Price \$250 to \$600.

Selling Price \$125 up.

20 Square Pianos

will be sacrificed. We need the room they
occupy.

\$5.00 to \$100.00

will give you your choice.

Terms, \$2.00 Per Month.

Sheet Music

All the latest popular hits.

Catalogue of 10c Music.

IT'S FREE.

THE CABLE COMPANY

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA. J. G. CORLEY, Manager.

MAIL ORDERS RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

Mansfield.

Whims of the Idler

EDUCATION vs. SCHOOLMA'AMS.

Here's a chance to get famous by one
fell swoop. Others have had their fling,
and now your chance has come.

Organize a Society for the Prevention
of Cruelty to School Teachers and thou-
sands of faded spirits will rise up in frouzy
petticoats and call you blessed.

Never has a wider field of philanthropy
presented itself—never has a finer oppor-
tunity stuck itself under your very nose
and begged to be grabbed. If I weren't
married, and, therefore, kind of skittish
about being an object of adoration with
other women besides the one "who puts
the buttons in my linen," I'd take hold

of the thing myself. But husbands must
be cautious, and schoolma'ams, to say
the least, are irresistible.

Within the last five years there has
swept over the country, and especially
over poor, and sometimes ungrammatical
Dixie, a wave of enthusiasm about edu-
cation—that is, other folk's education—
which has set the population mad.

The fact that you yourself, with a sweet
disregard for auxiliary verbs, cheerily
say "I done it," instead of "I have done
it," does not mean that a grammar is
necessary in your case, but all the same,
you are red hot for the younger genera-

tion to come out letter-perfect. Nothing
in the way of mental blacksmithing ac-
cording to your way of thinking, is too
heavy for the present breed of brats.

Give it to 'em good and hard, you say,
in a spasm of pedagogic zeal.
And then, with a burst of magnanimity
you announce that next week you will
kindly deliver a public lecture on reforms
in education and how the young idea may
be trained to shoot—not with a Colt's
revolver or a Winchester repeating rifle,
as it would like to—but in a manner
calculated to absorb all the wisdom in
and out of encyclopedias.

It is fine and you get your name in
the paper; and publishing houses send
you prospectuses of new encyclopedias, and
the dearest of little arithmetics; and your
course-minded, money-making friends
grow respectful in your presence, and al-
together you are amazed to find how
important you are.

But unfortunately there is a certain
ungrateful class which doesn't appreciate
you in the least and which thinks you
are a most unbecomingly bore.

This class happens to be the school
teachers—the nerve-racked, brain-fagged,
chink-begrimed, overworked, peevish
school-teachers, who, by 3 P. M., are so
pugnaciously weary and so shakingly
fatigued that they could wield their
weight in wild cats. Amiability, zeal
for work, receptivity to other people's
ideas, and a general hunger for intellec-
tual elevation, are marvellously brisk
with most of us just after breakfast—
especially if we have had good strong cof-
fee and hiccups—but the same virtues
become a gray horse of another color
along towards the frazzled-out end of
the day's toil, when the desire for dinner
is life's one paramount emotion. If
you don't believe me, ask the teachers.
And if it is at that hour that you, in
your Titanic conceit, undertake to spew
out your nuggety words of educational
wisdom to the bedraggled queens of the
wriggling, juvenile hosts. Or, maybe, if
you yourself are not above such gross
moraline weaknesses as the love for food,
you deliver your soul-uplifting discourse
just after supper.

In short, you trot out the porcupine
schoolma'ams at an hour above all others
when the thing they most assuredly don't
wish to think about is education.

The vocation by which one earns his
bread may be gloriously amusing during
business hours, but there is a limit to
all things, and that limit, in the case of
work, is like the Chinese wall. Or rather
it would be like a Chinese wall if we had
our way.

Fancy a lot of sweaty, grimy brick-lay-
ers, stopping after 5 P. M. to hear a shoe-
maker deliver a lecture on how to lay
bricks. Imagine how joyously, nay, ex-
ultantly—a band of hood-carriers would
add an additional hour to their labor for
the pleasure of being told by some con-
sequential "butter in," how to conduct
their business.

Yet this is the sort of deal the school
teachers are getting nowadays. These
good souls, faithful beyond the powers
of ordinary endurance, are being talked
to death—lectured into frenzies—advised
to the point of desperation—criticized un-
til nothing but the lack of some avail-
able blunt instrument saves them from
committing murder. And all out of
school hours, too, when they'd like to be
doing something to check incipient spin-
sterhood or to snatch themselves from the
hungry jaws of celibacy.

But the didactic persecutors of holly-
eyed schoolma'ams do not stop with mere
talking. One can listen to a vast lot
of pretty superfluous words and then
forget them. The trouble, however, does
not end here. Your pedagogic friend
puts his ideas into execution—wants them

tried on the teachers, just as one tries
germs on rabbits or guinea pigs. For
instance, Mr. So-and-So, the popular and
now marvellously prosperous huckster,
could scarcely have come to the front in
behalf of education, takes it into his
head, that drawing should be taught in
all the public schools. That means that
every blessed schoolma'am in the sys-
tem—possibly on a day's notice—must
devote into an artist and move herself
capable of transforming forty or more
restless young Arabs into Imps and
Michael Angels.

Perchance some of the class-room mon-
archs actually are artists and maybe the
new order, though sudden, pleases them.
But, alas! hardly have they gotten a
chance to exult in the one thing they
really like before comes another order
to teach music—an order emanating
indirectly from a retired liverman. The
fact that the teachers don't know a
discord from an octave makes no dif-
ference. Music they must teach. And at
it they go like a duck on a "Juncy-
bug," plugging away as best they can.

Cross? Why they are like wet hens
when they get home, and will peck at
anything within fifty yards of 'em.
And really one can't blame them much.
For to-day it's vertical writing that must
be hammered into young America de-
spite the fact that the instructors have
been using another style of penmanship
for years, and to-morrow it will be some-
thing else of an equally revolutionary
nature. This session the examination
system has been abolished and a new
way of keeping reports adopted. Next
session the hours of pupils may be short-
ened and the hours of teachers made
longer.

At any rate, no matter how the peda-
gogic cat jumps, the amiable school-
ma'am must sheathe her retractile claws
and abstain from scratching. She must
be good, even though she isn't, and
twenty hours a day, and be lectured at
the other four hours. Time was—in the
halcyon days of my own patched breeches
boyhood, for instance—when it was the
teacher's business to lecture and give ad-
vice. But they've changed all that.
Now the schoolma'am must be a listener—
a hard thing for any woman to be, and
most cruelly hard for a teacher.

Worse still she must work overtime
with no union scale for extra labor. Her
present wage, apparently immutably
fixed compensation—is something like \$10
a week and oodles of dainty advice sup-
posed to be worth \$1,000 a minute by
those bestowing it. Unfortunately, too,
advice (next to assafoetida capsules) is
the hardest thing on earth to swallow.

But the schoolma'am must do her best
to gulp at the intellectual doses con-
cocted for her. The age requires it. She
is living in a formative period, and
must stay the penalty. Perhaps in con-
sideration of her position, she is not al-
lowed to come, after 10 o'clock, straight-
out, and the advice bureau has exhaust-
ed its stock in trade, she will be canon-
ized.

Maybe, too, in aeons yet dimly distant,
school teachers will get bigger salaries.
The present crop, however, had better
not buy any expensive millinery on the
strength of this possibility. It would be
far better for them to get married—to
select as life companions that class of
submissive brutes which, from time im-
memorial, has tranquilly allowed itself to be
the verbal target for the sex which left
the garden of Eden with the gift of gab.
And as for the "chillians"—the innocent
cause of all this tightly tempered-good-
ness knows what's to become of them.

Engraved Cards.

50 cards with plate, 70c; regular price \$1.00.
Our engraving charges are 20 per cent. below
others. Write to us for prices.
SOUTHERN STAMP & STATIONERY CO.,
Twelfth & Main St.

If they absorb all the education that's
being put in soak for them, they'll have
to wear washbats for hats by the time
they become adults, and have their brains
blacked up with iron gliders like a build-
ing that has gotten top-heavy. Maybe,
too, the young upstarts will soon be want-
ing to send their parents to kindergar-
ten.

And yet I rejoice to say that the thir-
teen in my establishment are strangely
attracted to the use of the pen, and
will cheerfully chop wood or dig dirt
rather than corrupt their minds with vul-
gar fictions or the eccentricities of
irregular verbs. But, unlike their Pa,
they can never quite understand why
their tea table are sometimes snappish
and ferociously impatient, and why these
same teachers seem opposed to giving
them a second's rest.

The nearer I approach the end of this
painful struggle for existence, the more
I thank my stars that I am neither a
schoolma'am nor a schoolma'am's pupil.
As between being worked to death and
talked to death, it is hard to say where
one's choice should lie.



THE TEXAS WAY.

Gambling Dens of El Paso Closed
Officially and With Politeness.

A moral wave has swept over all the
principal cities of Texas in the last few
months, and as a result gambling is a
thing of the past in some of these places.
It is in San Antonio and El Paso, the two
remaining wide open towns of the state,
that the full force of this wave has been
felt.

In El Paso the crusade against gam-
bling was taken up by the moral and re-
ligious element, and petitions to close
the gambling houses were presented to
J. H. Boone, sheriff of El Paso county,
by a delegation of prominent citizens.

Sheriff Boone sent a notice to each
game-breeder telling him that he must go
out of business on a certain day at a
certain hour. He followed up these indi-
vidual notices with a general proclama-
tion which was published in the principal
newspapers of El Paso, as follows:

"To the Public: Leave your pistols at
home unless you have commissions to
carry them. Carrying concealed weap-
ons is in violation of the law. You might
get caught, and excuses will not pay the
fine."

"Side door entries and back way sneaks
may get you into trouble. There is a
strong force of men watching you."
"Don't fail to post yourselves on what
are the violations of the law."

"The law applies to all places in El
Paso county as well as in the city."
"Take my advice and be on the safe
side. It will be too late after you are
caught."

"These warnings will soon cease, and
then we will do business strictly."

games were stopped, doors were closed,
and the reign of gamblers in El Paso
was at an end.

The Well-to-Do Brother.

Frank Ver Beck, the illustrator, has a
brother who is a very successful business
man, says the Saturday Evening Post.

Among a party of visitors to Mr. Ver
Beck's studio, one day recently, was a
lady who met him for the first time.
In the course of the conversation one

of the callers made a reference to this
brother.

"Some friends of mine," observed the
lady, "know your brother. I believe he
is very well to do, is he not?"

"On the contrary," replied Mr. Ver
Beck, sadly, "he is very hard to do. I
asked him to lend me \$5 last week, and
he had the impertinence to say that
when I returned the five I borrowed last
summer, perhaps he would think of let-
ting me have this one."

CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS

By
SYDNOR & HUNDLEY.

We have put on our thinking cap for your bene-
fit. Any of the following articles would make an

Acceptable and Wise
Christmas Gift.

CHINA CASES, Oak and Mahogany.
SIDEBOARDS, Oak and Mahogany.
EXTENSION TABLES, Oak and Mahogany.
BEDROOM SUIT, Any Wood.
PARLOR SUIT, Every Good Style.
LIBRARY SUITS and odd chairs.

Couches, in variety; Box Couches a specialty.
Hall Racks, Hall Mirrors and Settees,
In Choice Rocking Chairs, their name is
legions.
Turkish Rockers and Sleeping Hollow
Chairs by the score.

Cellarettes, Music Stands, Shaving Stands.

And as You Must Know
We Always Excel in Mor-
ris Chairs and Ladies'
Desks.

SYDNOR & HUNDLEY,
LEADERS,
709-711-713 East Broad Street.

One Dollar an Ounce for Sterling Silverware

Rather astonishing, isn't it? This silverware is .925 fine, too.
It is this way: We bought a large quantity of certain patterns of
solid Silver Forks and Spoons. By sharing our bargain with you
and having a little of our ordinary modest profit, we can sell these
particular patterns—there are five of them—at \$1 an ounce.
It gives you a heavy set of teaspoons for \$4, and so on. Come and
see them.

Gold Rings \$1.50.

We have over a hundred. Solid
Gold Rings for misses. They are
all the different fashionable pat-
terns. Many cost as much or more
than our price; you can take your
pick at \$1.50.

Lady's Gold Watch \$25.

These Watches are Elgin or Wal-
tham movement and have extra
heavy cases of 14-Kt gold—we
won't handle the thin case
Watches. We are watch inspectors
for several railroads and handling
such a large quantity of watches
gives us big opportunities to save
you money. We guarantee this
the best watch value in Richmond.

Novalty Brooches \$1.25.

These are Crescent and French
Knots. A remarkable value, but no
better than scores of others we
have.

Toilet Set \$12.

This particular Toilet Set, com-
prising of mirror, comb and brush,
is sterling silver, very massive
looking, a new pattern in the
French gray. This is a sample of
scores of other Toilet Sets.
\$2.50.

Sterling Match Safes, \$1.50.
Sterling Silver Battles, \$2.50,
and so for the rest.

**Seth Thomas
Clocks.**

Ask any expert who makes the
finest Clocks and he will say Seth
Thomas. We handle no other. We
can give you a beauty in imitation
marble, cathedral gothic and half-
hour strike, for \$5.50.

J. J. Allen & Co.,

Jewellers, 14th and Main Streets.